



# POLYGAMY

November 2008

## News and Views from the Child Protection Project

### Utah's Polygamy Prosecutions Debated CPP supporter Marci Hamilton leads spirited exchanges

In the aftermath of the YFZ raid in April, legal scholars are debating Utah's stance on polygamy prosecutions.

A spirited debate took place at the University of Utah's College of Law on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Constitutional scholar and Child Protection Project supporter Marci Hamilton of New York's Cardozo School of Law challenged Chief Deputy Utah Attorney General Kirk Torgensen on the state's prosecution of crimes stemming from polygamy.

Hamilton criticized the Utah Attorney General for promoting a 'policy of appeasement' in its lack of prosecutions leading to the assumption that polygamy should be legalized. She stated "while it's undeniably true that not every case of polygamy includes sexual or physical abuse of children, the tendency is enough to make the assumption that a polygamous home is not a fit home for a child".

Torgensen defended the Utah AG saying that they pursue what evidence is available to them. Obtaining witnesses is hard, he added.

Hamilton criticized Utah's statute of limitations on sex crimes, adding that abuse victims may not come forward for years after the incident. The debate intensified when she accused the AG's office for not trying hard enough to find evidence for prosecuting polygamy.

Torgensen offered to deputize Hamilton to prosecute cases. Some members of the audience yelled "No! No! No!" while others shouted "Yes! Yes!". He did warn the polygamous communities that the AG would prosecute underage marriages.

The two carried out their exchanges in a full house of law students, activists on both sides of the issue, and members of polygamous cults. Opinions expressed in the debate were as divided as the issue itself.

Flora Jessop added: "I think they need to decide if they'll uphold all of the laws or some of the laws, referring to the UT AG's office". CPP applauds Hamilton's efforts and also intends to work with Marci to remove statutes of limitations that bar children from seeking justice for child sexual abuse. ▲



Marci Hamilton criticizes UT AG for promoting a 'policy of appeasement'

Hamilton says polygamous homes not fit for children

Law students, activists on both sides and members of polygamous cults in attendance

### Stronger CPS Laws Governor signs seven bills

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano signed into law seven bills which supporters claim will increase accountability and transparency of the Child Protective Services. Her action was taken in last June and July.

Key provisions of the bills would:

- Increase public access to CPS information after the death or serious injury of a child
- Open some CPS-related court proceedings
- Allow inspection of state employee disciplinary records
- Impose tougher requirements for law enforcement officials and CPS personnel to work together on child protection matters.

Representative Ed Ableser, D-Tempe who voted for the bills, said that the changes must be accompanied by increased funding for CPS.

Roman Ulman, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said the new access to employee records will promote fairness in disciplinary actions while still allowing managers to correct problems.

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### Texas Supreme Court Decision Wrongs FLDS Children

On May 29<sup>th</sup> the Texas Supreme Court affirmed the state's Third Circuit appellate court's ruling that Child Protective Services (CPS) lacked adequate evidence to justify taking all of the children from the FLDS's Yearn for Zion compound. However, as Marci Hamilton explains, there are significant differences between the two rulings, which bode well for the endangered children of the FLDS. Hamilton comments on this decision with her usual insightfulness recognizing the media is not painting an accurate picture of the decision.

For instance, the Texas Supreme Court affirms that CPS has ongoing jurisdiction making it clear that CPS' investigation of abuse was far from over. Indeed, it made a point of listing the means by which the district court could further protect the children, even as they were permitted to return to the compound. The court pointed out that the Texas Family Code permitted the court 'broad authority' to prohibit the removal of the children from a designated geographical area, to direct the removal of an alleged perpetra-

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## Child Protection Project

The Child Protection Project is dedicated to raising awareness about institutionalized child abuse. This abuse occurs when laws to protect children are ignored, even covered up and abusers are protected by the institution while victim/survivors fend for themselves, or are sometimes even vilified.

The most serious civil and human rights offenses are carried out by doomsday sects. Many of these practice polygamy, incest and sexual abuse. In these cults, members often become slave laborers. Polygamists are designated as supremacy hate groups. These extremists indoctrinate members using a contorted religious rationalization for their crimes. The abuses of women and children are deeply embedded.

We advocate the criminal and civil prosecution of polygamy and the secret crimes that accompany it. The CPP reaches out to the child brides and families who suffer from these practices. The CPP finds civil attorneys for the boys kicked out of the cult. The CPP provides education about their civil rights and encourages others to stand up to these groups and fight for their rights.

We also advocate educating polygamists and their descendants about the genetic dangers of the practice of endogamous polygamy—breeding within the group. Virtually all other polygamists practice exogamy—breeding outside the group to avoid the genetic disaster the public now faces from this unprecedented human breeding experiment. Early polygamists attempted to create an Aryan super race, to literally re-create themselves or their favorite wives by breeding with first degree relatives. Uncles married nieces and half siblings intermarried. Forced marriages among relatives are now common.

Genetic diseases such as fumarase deficiency, tourette’s syndrome and kidney failure, now occur at alarming rates inside polygamy. The CPP reaches out to those suffering from these practices. The human cost of this inbreeding and the tax subsidized healthcare of affected individuals are staggering.

The high infant death rates inside polygamy were researched by the CPP in 2004. Death statistics from gravesites in Babyland Cemetery in Colorado City were compared with state vital records. These findings and a call to action were documented in a letter to the FBI.

In 2007 more data was gathered and is under analysis. Preliminary results are alarming. ▲

Looking to apply your web designing skills? The CPP is looking for a volunteer to re-design childpro.org and maintain the site. Contact Linda Walker at: [lwalker@childpro.org](mailto:lwalker@childpro.org)

### From Executive Director

Once again we come to the close of a year dedicated to the fight for justice and protection of children everywhere. While there has been some headway towards protecting the children in polygamy there is much left to do. I applaud the efforts of Texas in continuing to indict the predators but I am dismayed at the lack of child protection efforts.

Political pressure used to thwart child protection efforts needs to stop. We continue to see political corruption lay a hand of protection over predators and leave children endangered.

With the economic crisis now facing America, it is my belief that while once a strong nation we are rapidly taking ourselves into the category of a weak power because we continue to sacrifice the rights and safety of our children. If we destroy our children, we destroy our future and ourselves. To make this nation strong again our child protection system must change.

Flora Jessop  
Executive Director

### From the Editor

I continue to read most of the new books released on polygamy. Stephen Singular’s in his When Men Become Gods writes the story of the FLDS from the men’s point of view, including the prophets, expelled FLDS leaders, and law enforcement officials. The author describes Gary Engels’ unique role as special investigator in Colorado City. Refer to the review on page 5 of this truly insightful work .

It is gratifying to see the west side retirees utilize the unique skills of their profession toward the Child Protection Project mission. The people from PebbleCreek and other retirement communities are to be commended for their contribution.

Please check [childpro.org](http://childpro.org) for further developments and opportunities to participate.

Your response to any story in the newsletter or other polygamy issue is most welcome.

Doris Miller  
Editor

Credits are due to Ben Winslow, *Deseret News*; Barnes and Noble; Howard Fischer, *Capitol News Service*; Paul Davenport, *Associated Press*; Andrea Moore-Emmett, *Huffington Post*; and *cnn.com*.

The Child Protection Project does not support the decriminalization of polygamy.



## CPP Advisory Team Formed West side retirees launch letter writing campaign

Beginning last April, Dennis DeFrain and other west side retirees formed the CPP Advisory Team.

At the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, a number of issues were addressed including:

- Working to remove the statutes of limitations on criminal and civil child sex crimes
- Reforming Arizona's home schooling laws to ensure accountability and testing
- Expanding the CPP Advisory Board
- Upgrading the web site childpro.org

The week before, on October 12<sup>th</sup> Jenny Jessop Larson, author of [Brainwash to Hogwash](#), delivered a lively presentation about growing up in polygamy in the 40s and 50s. She even diagramed her parents' marriage and offspring, including her father's plural wives. She ended her diagram with approximately

two generations so as not to further confound the listening audience with her large interrelated kindreds. Flora Jessop displayed weighty boys and girls clothes worn in Colorado City pointing out the health issues in extreme heat.

The CPP Advisory Team, first met in April to view the film 'Damned to Heaven'. At the follow up meeting, Linda Walker, CPP Founder and Secretary, spoke on the progress of the YFZ raid and CPP's involvement. Attendees then split into committees for fund raising, education and media relations. In the weeks that followed, CPP supporters wrote letters to legislators, newspapers and other media supporting the Texas CPS action protecting the children in the compound.

In May four members of the Team attended the Polygamy Town Hall Meeting in St. George, Utah. At the afternoon

conference sessions they listened to polygamists and others who were involved in one way or another with polygamy. They heard a panel of polygamist wives state that they were aware that their lifestyle was against the law. Noticeably absent from the many speakers were the victims of abuses in polygamy.

At the April and June meetings, Flora Jessop spoke on recent developments and her goals for the organization. In June, the group viewed a documentary film from the Women's Entertainment channel on women trapped in polygamy. This film further documented CPP's concerns about the enormous number of child deaths inside polygamy.

The advisory team leader, Dennis DeFrain, launched an e-mail news service sending out 'items of interest' during the YFZ raid and developments that

followed. So far, his e-mail distribution includes 90 individuals.

Some funds have been collected and fund raising events are in the preliminary planning stages.

A major long term CPP goal is to open a transition center where women and children leaving polygamy can obtain services in one place. In the interim, contacts with a local shelter were initiated and used to house victims of polygamous abuse.

The Team hopes to launch a mentoring program for former FLDS children as well.

The creation of the Advisory Team is an exciting step forward in the future expansion of CPP goals and is viewed as a momentous development by Flora Jessop.

To participate in the Advisory Team, contact Dennis DeFrain: [dcdefrain@cox.net](mailto:dcdefrain@cox.net). ▲

## CPS Reforms

(continued from page 1)

The legislation is in direct response to the



deaths last year of Brandon Williams and Ariana and Tyler Payne in Tucson despite their families having contact with CPS. It took a lawsuit by the *Arizona Daily Star* to force CPS to surrender the documents under the state's Public Records Law.

The reforms follow extensive negotiations with CPS officials, prosecutors, child advocates and others. ▲

## Effects of the Texas Supreme Court Ruling

(continued from page 1)

tor from a child's home, and to issue orders assisting CPS in its investigation.

The Texas Supreme Court did not clear the adults at the FLDS compound of abuse claims, nor did it vindicate any 'rights' on their part.

It is extremely important for people to understand this point: the Texas Supreme Court did not say that there was no abuse and did not place its imprimatur on the notion that the FLDS could return to abuse as usual.

Hamilton continues: Moreover, neither the Texas Supreme Court nor the lower appellate court ruled on whether the parents have any 'rights', constitu-

tional or otherwise—a point the Texas Supreme Court stated explicitly. The week before, FLDS members had turned investigators away from the gates of the compound. The court made clear that should not happen again and, by implication, that if investigators during this investigation uncover further evidence of abuse, the state will not be barred from further actions taken to protect each child.

CPP has heard that some Texas officials acted under political pressure exerted by national politicians. One obvious force is US Senator Orin Hatch (R-Utah) who has been an ob-

stacle in protecting FLDS women and children. CPP is concerned the children returned to the true believing cult members are in continuing danger. CPP intends to continue to raise awareness of the dangers inside polygamy in order to protect the abused children. ▲





## Slow Progress in Canada on Polygamy Issue

by Nancy Mereska, Coordinator, Stop Polygamy in Canada

The Stop Polygamy in Canada email network campaign began in 2002 after I saw a program on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)'s program *the fifth estate* titled "The Bishop of Bountiful".

... When the interview with Jane Blackmore came on, I sat straight up; and, as Jane folded her arms and looked down while she answered Hana Gartner's question, "What will happen to you now?" and said, "I'm going to hell." I was crying because that is exactly what I said to my attorney when I divorced my fanatic main-stream Mormon husband twenty years ago.

When I remarried, I moved out into the rural area of Alberta

and the country quiet was very good for my troubled soul. But that TV program caused me to realize that I could do something about this cult from my keyboard. I started with a few friends from the University of Alberta in Edmonton and Athabasca University (my alma mater). Then in June 2004, I attended the International Cultic Studies Conference in Edmonton hosted by the sociology department of the U of A. Dr. Stephen Kent had been one of my professors and he was a key organizer for this conference.

I met both Debbie Palmer and Jane Blackmore at this conference. ... After hearing these women speak, I was even more

determined that polygamy is a travesty on Canadian soil that must be stopped.

My campaign has a cadre of news stations which are openly copied on my emails; and, over 150 individuals and organizations that are blind-copied when I send out news. The campaign has generated thousands of letters over the years. It is a part of the Women's United Nations Research Network, Beyond Borders Org., Restoring Dignity Org., the Women's List Serve of Faculties of Women's Studies across Canada, the Council of Alberta Women's Shelters, ..., Info-Secte Org. and several others.

The British Columbia govern-

ment has stalled ... Regarding making a decision ... on Bountiful. Until the plight of Teresa Wall, who testified on behalf of her sister, Elissa, against Warren Jeffs, there have been no judicial rulings. But, in a landmark decision, where in Ray Blackmore, a follower of Warren Jeffs, is suing for custody of his and Teresa's children, Justice T.J. Melnick of the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled, "Polygamy is illegal and it may not be in children's best interest to be raised within a polygamous society." Judge Melnick cited Section 293 (1) of the *Criminal Code of Canada* which makes the practice of polygamy illegal in Canada. ▲

## Bountiful—Home of Canadian Polygamy

The polygamous community of Bountiful is located on the outskirts of the small town of Creston, British Columbia. The community, comprised of just over a thousand people, is tucked away in the Creston Valley under the shadow of the towering East Kootenay Mountains close to Idaho on the US border. It is a secluded community where plural marriage is not only at the center of the community's religious beliefs but it is a way of life.

Bountiful is home to the FLDS and Winston Blackmore's following.

As bishop, Blackmore continues to be the most powerful man in Bountiful. He was born and raised into this polygamous

group. His first wife Jane , says he has 26 wives and some 80 children.

### Bountiful's Growth

Within the last decade there has been a remarkable growth in the populations of the polygamous communities of Colorado City, Arizona and Bountiful, British Columbia. It has resulted from a growing influx of young women moving from the US community to Bountiful.

This flow of young women back and forth across the border has raised concerns for Carol Anderson who works as an immigration officer on the Idaho/BC border. "I've refused admission because I felt they were coming here to get mar-

ried. There is no class under Canada's Immigration law by which they can be sponsored in as a plural spouse. The law prohibits it."

### Bountiful Today

In Canada children under 16 need their parents permission and a judge's signature to get married. When it comes to sex, a child between the age of 12 and 14 is permitted to have sex but their partner must be less than two years older.

Jane Blackmore , Winston's 1st wife claims that the daughters in Bountiful are getting married—and having babies—as early as 14 and 15, something Winston Blackmore quickly denies.

The community of Creston lies just a few miles down the road from Bountiful. "Its economy has been kept in high gear by the community of Bountiful" says Carol Anderson , Winston Blackmore's half-sister.

Blackmore is tied in with Bruce Wisan, special fiduciary in Utah. Wisan is responsible for reforming the United Effort Plan Trust in Colorado City and Hildale.

Given his ties, Blackmore is excused from paying child support to an ex-wife. Instead he pays child support to another priesthood man who is granted the child visitation. It's a convoluted arrangement at best, another example of the corruption within polygamous groups. ▲





## Book Reviews

### **Child Advocacy 101: Essays on Child Protection in America**

by Donnalee Sarda &  
other contributors

This brilliant, harrowing book exposes the cruel perversities of the proponents of corporal punishment, 'Parental Alienation Syndrome', radical polygamy and 'Man-boy Love'.

Even those helping professionals who work directly with children will be shocked at the influence these disturbed people have on our child protective system, our courts, and our society's conscience.

Those of us who are psychologists will be shamed to see how our theories, research and practices have been twisted in the courts to support the devastation of families and the abandonment of our children's best interests. The authors whom I have long known for their brave and persistent work on behalf of powerless and victimized children, have done a stunning job of bringing the realities of these injustices to our attention.

Barbara Kerr, Ph.D.  
Williamson Family  
Distinguished Professor of  
Counseling Psychology,  
University of Kansas

Paperback  
194 pages  
Bridgewood Press, Phoenix  
Released August 21, 2008  
ISBN-10: 0972015345

### **When Men Become Gods: Mormon Polygamist Warren Jeffs, His Cult of Fear, and the Women Who Fought Back**

by Stephen Singular

Wow! I thought this writer did an excellent job capturing the personalities of those he writes about. Stephen Singular touches on so many of the issues that have been hidden/hushed up for so many years.

The fact is that Warren Jeffs and his cult are Mormon Fundamentalists. Like it or not the writer isn't making anything up. The person that people should be upset with is Warren Jeffs and his followers and those that have allowed this to go on for so many years.

Victims' cries for help are unheard by so many in the local governments—corrupt police officers, light sentences by judges, and local politicians' lack of involvement.

Stephen Singular brings out events and connections that I've not read about in the press—the greed and the lengths to which people like Warren Jeffs use to gain control of the followers' monies, minds, bodies and souls.

Singular exposes twelve year-old girls marrying old men and young boys cast from their homes. He uncovers fathers using their daughters as pawns to gain bigger homes and a higher status in the community.

For those that want to know more about the events that have taken place and are taking place and who some of the key players are involved in this ongoing story—please read the book.

Thank you Stephen Singular for touching so many bases.

A very pleased reader Walton

Hardback  
294 pages  
St. Martin's Press, New York  
Published April 2008  
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### **Reaching Out**

Flora Jessop June 17, 1994

Living in a dream world,  
Hanging by a thread,  
Trying just to understand  
The aching in my head.

I wonder if I asked you please,  
Help relieve my tears?  
Could you lend a shoulder  
Or an ear and listen to my fears?

Maybe I can help with yours  
And then I'd realize,  
That everyone has unshed tears  
And fears attaching every side.

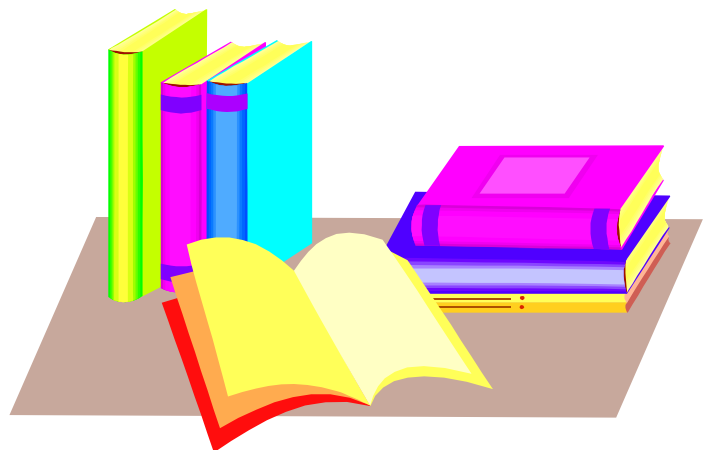
We have to keep perspective  
And try to understand  
That everyone is happier  
When we lend a helping hand.

We have to stick together,  
No matter what the cost  
Cause if we try to go alone,  
All purpose will be lost.

I send a very special thanks  
To those who've held my hand  
The places that I had fallen to  
Had very high demand.

Remember that no matter what  
Someone out there cares  
And if you dare to take a chance,  
Or maybe chance some dares.

That special someone  
Could be waiting,  
Just for you to come. ▲





# Child Protection Project

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www.childrenshhealthcare.org

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*Discover your own claws—  
Become your own hero...  
Be a survivor of experience  
Not a victim of circumstance.*

## Call to action

- Share *Polygamy News & Views* with friends and family
- Make a contribution for the Transition Center
- Write the editor
- Write your legislators

*Like the tiger we fight turning sexual predators into prey.*

## Attorneys Trained on the Cycle of Abuse Flora Jessop speaks on polygamy

An attorneys' workshop on 'Advocating for Victims of Child Abuse in Juvenile and Family Courts' was provided by the Defenders of Children (DofC). Two sessions were held in Mohave County, AZ and Washington, UT October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Attorneys received training to better help abused women and children. A num-

ber of targeted populations were covered, including those living in polygamy. The sessions also helped identify attorneys who would work on a pro bono basis or a reduced fee.

Flora Jessop led the segment on abuse victims from polygamy. Other speakers included: Donnalee Sarda

(Executive Director, DofC), Representative David Lujan (DofC), Gary Arnold (CPS Director of Coconino County serving Colorado City), Maria Hoffman, Ginger Wooden, Denise Meenan and Caroline White.

The response from the Mohave County attorneys was very encouraging. ▲



### What ever happened to State Representative Eddie Farnsworth?

Rep. Eddie Farnsworth was defeated in the GOP primary September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senate Majority Leader Thayer Verschoor won with 42 percent of votes; Farnsworth winning 39 percent. Verschoor retains his Senate seat since no Democrat entered the race.

### What has happened to the investigation into the Colorado City School District fraud?

The State of Arizona took over the CC School District after finding enormous amounts of fraud and crimes.

Attorney General Terry Goddard conducted a lengthy investigation but decided not

to prosecute those responsible for the millions of dollars stolen from the district. This decision is another in a long line of failures by AZ law enforcement to protect the children living in polygamy.

Aside from taking possession of the school district airplane and the jobs of a few, much remains the same in CC. The school district was turned over to the Centennial Park polygamists who recently refused to enroll any child into school without the 'permission' of the patriarchal FLDS husband. Taking control from one cult and giving control to another cult was not in any child's best interest.

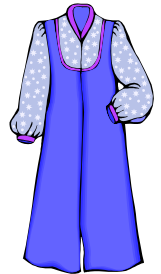
CPP asks: what has changed as a result of this much touted investigation?

### What are 'ghost children' of the FLDS?

They are children of largely plural wives without birth certificates. Official birth records would document the children's parents leading to possible prosecution. Many polygamists reserve these children for 'God's Army'.

During the YFZ raid, FLDS women under CPS pressure flocked to Arizona and Utah to obtain delayed birth certificates for their 'ghost children'.

**What was the background for the launching of the 'FLDS Dress' web site?**



During the April raid on the YFZ, women in the FLDS believed the CPS would need clothing for the women and children taken from the Ranch.

To sell their clothing, they launched 'FLDSDress.com'. A short while later they added gifts to their on-line merchandise. Of course the proceeds would be turned over to Warren Jeffs and FLDS leaders.

At that time the CPP felt that the media directed undue attention to 'FLDS fashion'. The focus should have been solidly directed on the plight of the child brides, the girls forced into underage marriages. ▲

*To find your federal, state and local officials:  
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>*